

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **SECRETARY of STATE JAEGER HOSTS ELECTION EQUIPMENT VENDOR DEMONSTRATION**

Bismarck, N.D. – Secretary of State Al Jaeger and the Voting Systems Procurement Committee will host an election equipment vendor fair on Wednesday, October 8. The event is part of the state's effort to implement the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA). It will feature new voting technology displayed by three vendors of HAVA compliant election equipment, which will include disability accessible and second-chance voting systems. Attendees will have the opportunity to experience new voting technology first-hand, with hands-on trials of the equipment.

HAVA requires states to have compliant voting equipment in place for the 2006 election cycle. In September, Jaeger appointed the Voting Systems Procurement Committee to assist in determining the compliant election equipment to be deployed in North Dakota. According to Jaeger, the state's chief election officer, "The vendor event is designed to educate election officials about the availability, models, options, and costs associated with the procurement of the required compliant equipment."

The HAVA Vendor Fair is being held in conjunction with the North Dakota Association of Counties Fall Conference, which most of the state's county officials will be attending. In addition to county auditors, who serve as county election officials, members of the disabilities community, technology sector, and voter interest groups have also been invited to participate.

The vendor fair will be open to the public and media from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Lamborn Room of Bismarck's Best Western Ramkota Hotel. In the afternoon, a forum for questions and answers will be held between each individual vendor and the state's election officials.

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